Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05608 050646Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------112021 050652Z /20
O 031410Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2853

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5608

EXDIS

E.O,BS11652 GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MARR,TU, US
SUBJ: ECEVIT/CARTER MESSAGE OF AUGUST 2, 1978 -- COMMENTARY

REF: ANKARA 5597

1. IN MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER TO BE DELIVERED BY TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS "THAT HAVE BEEN VITALLY EFFECTIVE IN OBTAINING POSITIVE RESULTS." (TEXT OF COURTESY COPY OF ECEVIT-CARTER MESSAGE AS PROVIDED TO US BY MFA SENT VIA REFTEL.) TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONCERNS OVER "SOME PARTS AND SOME OF THE WORDING OF BOTH" SENATE AND HOUSE VERSIONS ARE ALLUDED TO, FOLLOWED BY THEMAUGGESTION THAT MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ELKDAG BE SENT TO WASHINGTON TO "EXPOUND OUR CONCERNS IN DETAIL". TO ENHANCE RECEPTIVITY TO THIS SUGGESTION ELKDAG WOULD BE AVAILABLE "TO DISCUSS MATTERS PERTAINING TO UUR ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE COOPERATION."

2. OUR THOUGHTS ON THE LETTER ARE:
A. THE GOT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE FINAL WORKS ON THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO WILL BE COMPOSED BY HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE ON THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL. THIS OUTCOME IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO THEMSELVES THAT THEY MUST EITHER APPEAR

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 05608 050646Z

PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESSE OR EXPOSE THEMSELVES TO CRITICISM HERE OF DOING NOTHING WHILE EVENTS CENTRAL TO TURKEY'S INTERESTS ARE BEING SETTLED IN WASHINGTON.
B. THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE GOT HAVING A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE IS ALMOST NIL AND IN GOING TO WASHINGTON ELEKDAG OPENS HIMSELF TO HAVING TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS OF OUR FUTURE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP (E.G., REOPENING THE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

INSTALLATIONS) BEFORE HIS GOVERNMENT MAY BE READY TO DO
SO; AND
C. WHILE WE SHOULD NOT REJECT PM ECEVIT'S
OFFER TO SEND ELEKDAG, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF I WERE
INSTRUCTED TO POINT OUT THE POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF HIS GOING.
IF HE DECIDES TO PROCEED, HIS EXPECTATION LEVEL ON HIS PERSONAL
IMPACT ON THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE THEN WOULD BE APPROPRIATELY
LOW. HE ALSO SHOULD UNDERSTAND HOW WE INTERPRET HIS OFFER
TO DISCUSS THE "MATTERS PERTAINING TO OUR ECONOMIC AND
DEFENSE COOPERATION," FOR WHICH I WILL NEED INSTRUCTIONS.

3. ELEKDAG HAS JUST TELEPHONED TO ASK WHEN THE CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE WILL MEET. WE UNDERTOOK TO FIND OUT AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. BASED ON TELCON WITH EWING, NOW INTEND TO
TELL ELEKDAG THAT EVEN THOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO BE
SPECIFIC, IT IS NOT LIKLEY TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN NEXT
TEN DAYS. DILLON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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